

STEWART HOUSE - 203 HIGH STREET

The date of this house is unknown, although it was extensively renovated in the mid 19th century by Judge James A. Stewart. Originally the house stood directly on the pavement like a store, was painted red, and had an upper portico which extended across the pavement. Sometime in the 1850's Stewart moved the house back from the street, and in 1865 he enlarged the house adding the present Greek Revival style columns. An unusual feature of this house is the two end bays which are "paneled", rather than being covered with weatherboard as the rest of the house. Carved brackets ornament the cornice of the roof and portico.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1003885504

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
Stewart House, Colonial Apartments				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
203 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN:				
Cambridge				
STATE			COUNTY:	
Maryland			Dorchester	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
			apartments	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
J. F. Kuhn, L. Thomas Kuhn				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
206 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Cambridge			Maryland	
			21613	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Liber 171/Folio 336				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved
	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>This house, with a two story gabled portico supported by four Doric columns with brackets, is one of the few Cambridge buildings to reflect the Greek Revival influence. This portico was an 1855 addition, although the house itself goes back to an earlier but unknown date. The house has been converted to apartments and the original interior woodwork has been removed.</p> <p>It is a two and one half story frame structure with a gable roof. There is a gabled dormer on either side of the center portico gable. There are four bays across the front plus a two story polygonal bay window on the north east corner. An unusual feature of this house is the two end bays which are paneled, rather than being covered with wood siding as the rest of the house. Ornamental paneling is also seen in a large rectangle above the door. The first story windows are tall nine over nine sash type, while those on the second floor are six over six sash. Carved brackets support the projecting eaves of the roof and portico, as well as a cornice between the first and second story of the bay window. Brackets are also used for ornamentation to support a sill above the door and on the upper edge of the paneled rectangle.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | lasaphy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History:

This land was part of the 200 feet of property that was conveyed by Dr. William Murray to his son David in 1761. The property then passed through two generations of Murrays to Henrietta Murray Robertson, wife of William M. Robertson, who in April 1800 conveyed it to Richard Hayward for \$600. Richard Hayward died and devised it to Elizabeth Hayward. After her death in 1820, it was conveyed to Thomas Haywood for \$600. In July 1820, Thomas Haywood sold it to James Shanley for \$673 and in March 1837, Shanley sold it to James Pattison for \$600. In 1847, Hon. James A. Stewart, trustee for Pattison's estate, sold this property to John T. Stewart who in 1848 sold it to Judge Stewart for about the same price.

It is not known who erected the original house on this lot, although Col. Clement Sullivane claimed that as far back as 1844 there was an old frame house on the lot. He assumed that the original house was built by the Murray's. During his boyhood, he wrote, the house directly on the pavement like a store, was painted red, and had an upper portico which extended across the pavement. Sometime in the 1850's, Judge Stewart set the house back in line with the other dwellings on the street, making several "improvements" in the house. In 1865, Stewart greatly enlarged the house adding the columns which are there today.

Significance:

This building, renovated in the Greek Revival style, contributes to the historic character of High Street which consists of many houses of architectural interest ranging from the 18th century to early 20th century construction.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Col. Clement Sullivane, article reprinted in the
Daily Banner, May 7, 1925

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Catherine L. Moore,

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

203 High Street
Cambridge, Maryland

PLC 171/536

My research confirms what Cathe Moore has written already. I would like to add the following biographical information on Judge James A Stewart.

James A. Stewart was born in 1808 near Milton, Dorchester County. He practiced law in Cambridge and edited the Cambridge Chronicle from the late 1820's until 1843. Stewart ran for several political offices during his public life, usually unsuccessfully. But in 1854, he was appointed Judge of the First Judicial District and was also elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Stewart served three terms from 1855 to 1861. He retired from the public scene, but in 1867 won election to the Court of Appeals, where he served until his death in 1879. Stewart was also an enterprising businessman, being involved in real estate and shipbuilding among other things. In the 1870's he purchased 1,200 acres near Berkely Springs, West Virginia, where a resort hotel was under construction at the time of his death.

The house has been remodeled in the Greek Revival style, one of the few buildings of that type in Cambridge.

Sources:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

Court Records.

Land Records.

Will Records.

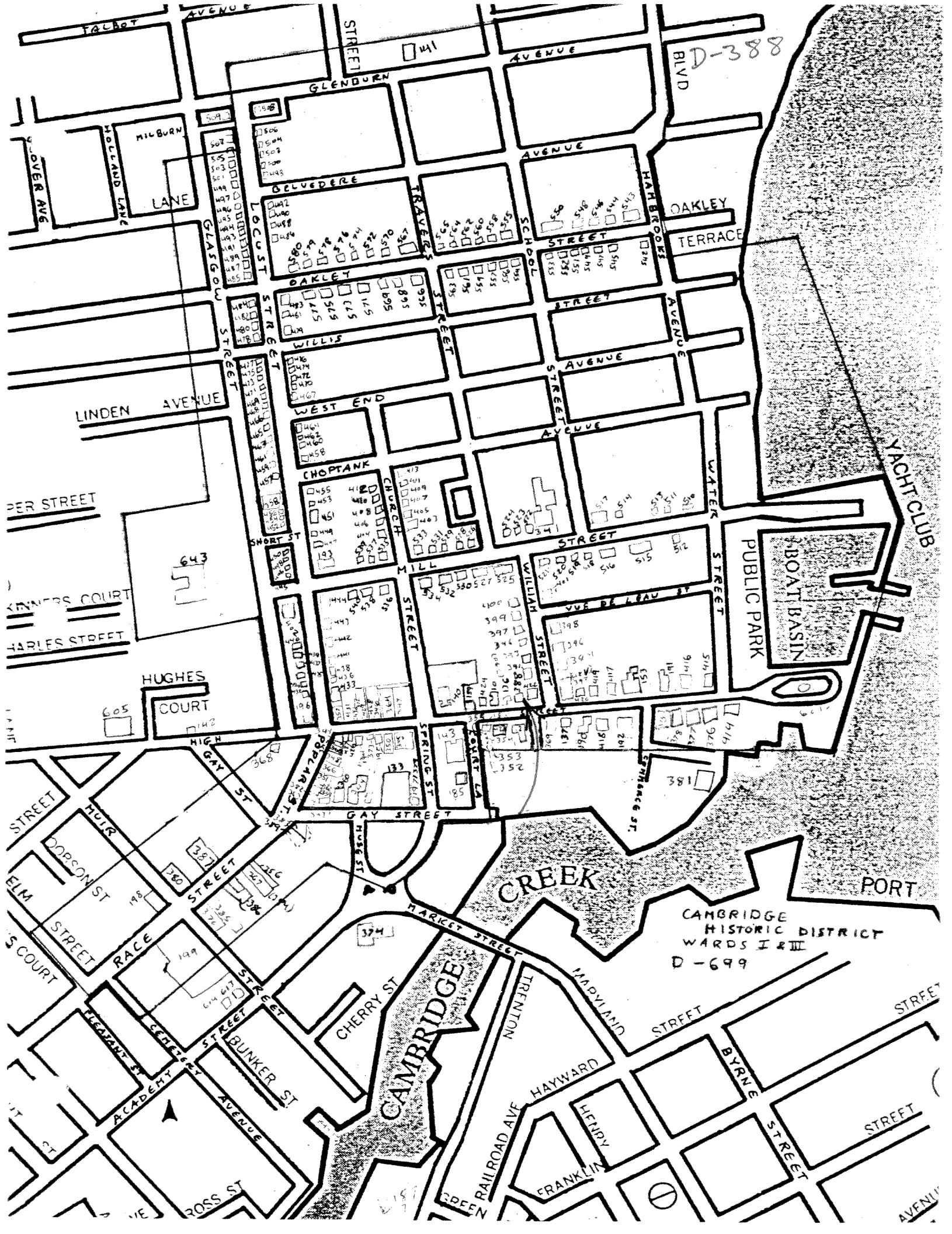
Cambridge Era, April 5, 1879.

Cambridge News, April 5, 1879.

Research by:

Terrance P. Walbert

1976





203 HIGH ST., CAMBRIDGE, MD. - EAST FACADE. - C.L. MOORE, 1976

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